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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

Tech firms agree to AI safeguards set by the White House

By MATT O'BRIEN and

ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden said Friday that new commitments by Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft and other companies that are leading the development of artificial intelligence technology to meet a set of AI safeguards brokered by his White House are an important step toward managing the "enormous" promise and risks posed by the technology. Biden announced that his administration has secured voluntary commitments from seven U.S. companies meant to ensure that their AI products are safe before they release them. Some of the commitments call for third-party oversight of the workings of the next generation of AI systems, though they don't detail who will audit the technology or hold the companies accountable.

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Generative AI refers to a class of artificial intelligence (AI) models that can create or generate new data, such as images, text, or music, that is similar to the data it was trained on. Generative models learn to recognize patterns and relationships in the input data and then use this knowledge to generate new data that is similar to the training data but is not identical.

There are many different types of generative AI models, including Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), and Autoregressive models. VAEs learn a probabilistic model of the input data and generate new data samples by sampling from this model. GANs consist of two neural networks: a generator and a discriminator, that work together to produce realistic data. Autoregressive models learn a probability distribution over the data and generate new samples based on the previous ones.

Generative AI has the potential to create realistic images, text, or music, but it also poses risks, such as data for training being used for malicious purposes or generating content that is inappropriate or misleading.



The OpenAI logo is seen on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen displaying output from ChatGPT, March 21, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

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Tech firms agree to AI safeguards set by the White House

Continued from Front

"We must be clear eyed and vigilant about the threats emerging technologies can pose," Biden said, adding that the companies have a "fundamental obligation" to ensure their products are safe.

"Social media has shown us the harm that powerful technology can do without the right safeguards in place," Biden added. "These commitments are a promising step, but we have a lot more work to do together."

A surge of commercial investment in generative AI tools that can write convincingly human-like text and churn out new images and other media has brought public fascination as well as concern about their ability to trick people and spread disinformation, among other dangers.

The four tech giants, along with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and startups Anthropic and Inflection, have committed to security testing "carried out in part by independent experts" to guard against major risks, such as to biosecurity and cybersecurity, the White House said in a statement. That testing will also examine the potential for societal harms, such as bias and discrimination, and more theoretical dangers about advanced AI systems that could gain control of physical systems or "self-replicate" by making copies of themselves.

The companies have also committed to methods for reporting vulnerabilities to their systems and to using digital watermarking to help distinguish between real and AI-generated images or audio known as deepfakes.

Executives from the seven companies met behind closed doors with Biden and other officials Friday as they pledged to follow the standards.

"He was very firm and clear" that he wanted the companies to continue to be innovative, but at the same time "felt that this needed a lot of attention," Inflection



President Joe Biden arrives to speaks about artificial intelligence in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Friday, July 2, 2023, in Washington, as from left, Adam Selipsky, CEO of Amazon Web Services; Greg Brockman, President of OpenAI; Nick Clegg, President of Meta; Mustafa Suleyman, CEO of Inflection AI; Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic; and Kent Walker, President of Google watch.

Associated Press

CEO Mustafa Suleyman said in an interview after the White House gathering. "It's a big deal to bring all the labs together, all the companies," said Suleyman, whose Palo Alto, California-based startup is the youngest and smallest of the firms. "This is supercompetitive and we wouldn't come together under other circumstances."

The companies will also publicly report flaws and risks in their technology, including effects on fairness and bias, according to the pledge. The voluntary commitments are meant to be an immediate way of addressing risks ahead of a longer-term push to get Congress to pass laws regulating the technology.

Some advocates for AI regulations said Biden's move is a start but more needs to be done to hold the companies and their products accountable.

"A closed-door deliberation with corporate actors resulting in voluntary safeguards isn't enough," said Amba Kak, executive director of the AI Now Institute. "We need a much more wide-ranging public deliberation, and that's going to bring up issues that

companies almost certainly won't voluntarily commit to because it would lead to substantively different results, ones that may more directly impact their business models."

While voluntary, agreeing to submit to "red team" tests that poke at their AI systems is not an easy promise, said Suleyman. "The commitment we've made to have red-teamers basically try to break our models, identify weaknesses and then share those methods with the other large language model developers is a pretty significant commitment," Suleyman said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said he will introduce legislation to regulate AI and is working closely with the Biden administration "and our bipartisan colleagues" to build upon the pledges made Friday.

A number of technology executives have called for regulation, and several attended an earlier White House summit in May.

Microsoft President Brad Smith said in a blog post Friday that his company is making some commitments that go beyond the

White House pledge, including support for regulation that would create a "licensing regime for highly capable models."

Some experts and upstart competitors worry that the type of regulation being floated could be a boon for deep-pocketed first-movers led by OpenAI, Google and Microsoft as smaller players are elbowed out by the high cost of making their AI systems adhere to regulatory strictures.

The White House pledge notes that it mostly only applies to models that "are overall more powerful than the current industry frontier," set by recent models such as OpenAI's GPT-4 and image generator DALL-E 2 and similar releases from Anthropic, Google and Amazon.

A number of countries have been looking at ways to regulate AI, including European Union lawmakers negotiating sweeping AI rules for the 27-nation bloc that could restrict applications deemed to have the highest risks.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently said the United Nations is "the ideal place" to adopt global standards and appoint-

ed a board that will report back on options for global AI governance by the end of the year.

Guterres also said he welcomed calls from some countries for the creation of a new U.N. body to support global efforts to govern AI, inspired by such models as the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The White House said Friday that it has consulted on the voluntary commitments with a number of countries. The pledge is heavily focused on safety risks but doesn't address other worries about the latest AI technology, including the effect on jobs and market competition, the environmental resources required to build the models, and copyright concerns about the writings, art and other human handiwork being used to teach AI systems how to produce human-like content.

Last week, OpenAI and The Associated Press announced a deal for the AI company to license AP's archive of news stories. The amount it will pay for that content was not disclosed. □

FBI wrongly searched for U.S. senator and state senator in Section 702 spy data

By NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

FBI employees wrongly searched foreign surveillance data for the last names of a U.S. senator and a state senator, according to a court opinion released Friday. The disclosure could further complicate Biden administration efforts to renew a major spy program that already faces bipartisan opposition in Congress. Another FBI employee improperly queried the Social Security number of a state judge who alleged civil rights violations by a municipal chief of police, according to the opinion by the chief judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

News of the latest violations comes as the Biden administration faces a difficult battle in persuading Congress to renew Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which allows spy agencies to collect swaths of emails and other communications.

Already this year, U.S. spy officials have disclosed that the FBI improperly searched Section 702 databases for information related to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S.



FBI Director Christopher Wray testifies before a House Committee on the Judiciary oversight hearing, Wednesday, July 12, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Capitol and the 2020 protests following the police killing of George Floyd.

U.S. officials say Section 702 enables their highest priority work on China, Russia and threats like terrorism and cybersecurity. But many Democratic and Republican lawmakers say they won't vote to renew Section 702 when it expires at this year's end without major changes targeting

how the FBI uses foreign surveillance data to investigate Americans.

Democrats who have long demanded new limits on the FBI's access to surveillance have increasingly been joined by Republicans angry about the bureau's investigations of former President Donald Trump as well as errors and omissions made during the probe of Russian ties to his

2016 campaign.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement that reforms at the bureau had led to "significant improvement" and fewer incidents of not following intelligence rules.

"We take seriously our role in protecting national security and we take just as seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of our Section 702 authorities," Wray

said. "We will continue to focus on using our Section 702 authorities to protect American lives and keeping our Homeland safe, while safeguarding civil rights and liberties."

Patrick Toomey, deputy director of the ACLU's National Security Project, said in a statement that the latest errors show it is "long past time for Congress to step in."

"As Congress debates re-authorizing Section 702, these opinions show why that can't happen without fundamental reforms," he said.

The surveillance court opinion released Friday didn't disclose the names, states or party affiliations of the people whose names were searched. It said the searches of the state senator and U.S. senator occurred in June 2022. According to the court opinion, the analyst who did the searches had information that a foreign spy service was targeting the lawmakers.

But the Justice Department's national security division reviewed the searches and found that they didn't meet FBI standards, the opinion stated. □

DoJ tells Texas that floating barrier on Rio Grande raises humanitarian concerns



Workers take a break from deploying large buoys to be used as a border barrier along the banks of the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass, Texas, Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Associated Press

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Justice Department has told Texas that a floating barrier of wrecking ball-sized buoys the state put on the Rio Grande violates federal law and raises humanitarian concerns for migrants crossing into the U.S. from Mexico. President Joe Biden's administration told Republican Gov. Greg Abbott that the barrier installed this month near the border town of Eagle Pass, Texas, was "unlawful" in a letter dated Thursday and

obtained by The Associated Press. "The floating barrier poses a risk to navigation, as well as public safety, in the Rio Grande River, and it presents humanitarian concerns," reads the letter, which also informs the state that the Justice Department intends to sue if the barriers are not removed. Abbott's office did not respond to a request for comment Friday, but on Twitter, the governor wrote that Texas was acting within its rights.

"Texas has the sovereign authority to defend our

border," Abbott tweeted. The buoys are the latest escalation of Abbott's multibillion-dollar operation to secure the state's 1,200-mile (1,930-kilometer) border with Mexico. Other measures have included razor-wire fencing and arresting migrants on trespassing charges. The mission known as Operation Lone Star came under new scrutiny after a trooper said migrants had been denied water and that orders were given to push asylum-seekers back into the Rio Grande. □

'Help me' sign leads to rescue of kidnapped Texas girl in Southern California

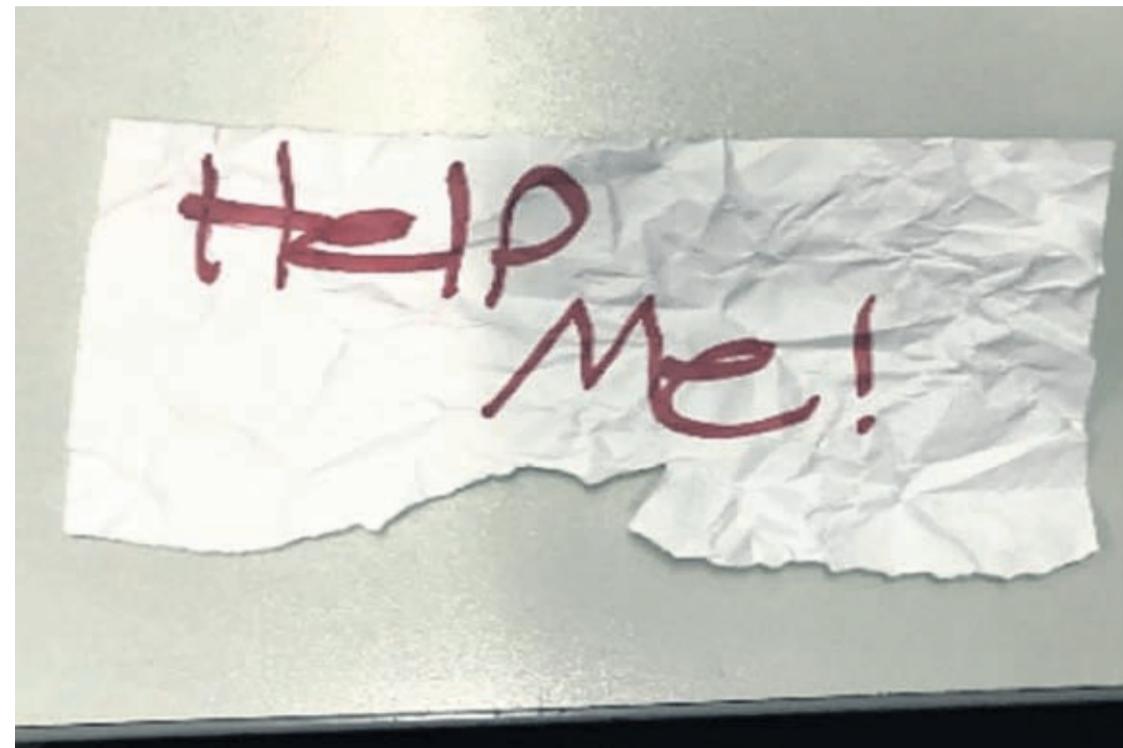
LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— A 13-year-old girl kidnapped in Texas and sexually assaulted was rescued in Southern California when passersby saw her hold up a "help me" sign in a parked car, police and federal authorities said.

The rescue occurred July 9 in Long Beach, south of Los Angeles, when officers responded to a trouble call and found the "visibly emotional and distressed girl," police said in a press release Thursday.

"Through their investigation, officers learned the Good Samaritans were in a parking lot when they saw the victim in a parked vehicle holding up a piece of paper with 'help me' written on it. They acknowledged the note and immediately called 9-1-1," police said.

Steven Robert Sablan, 61, of Cleburne, Texas, was arrested and on Thursday was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of kidnapping and transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, according



In this undated photo released by the U.S. Department of Justice is a "Help Me!" sign used by a 13-year-old girl kidnapped in Texas.

Associated Press

to the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles.

Sablan was being held at the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown LA.

It was not immediately known if he had an attorney.

The girl was walking down a street in San Antonio, Tex-

as, on July 6 when Sablan drove up, raised a black handgun and told her, "If you don't get in the car with me, I am going to hurt you," an FBI agent wrote in an affidavit supporting the criminal complaint.

According to the account, the girl had left home without telling her parents be-

cause she was attempting to visit a school friend who had moved to Australia a year earlier but kept in touch through an internet chatroom.

At some point after getting in Sablan's car, the girl told him about her friend and Sablan said he could take her to a cruise ship to go

to Australia, but that she would have to do something for him, the affidavit said.

The suspect stopped the car and sexually assaulted the girl, who told him to stop but was scared that she would be hurt if she did not comply, the agent wrote.

Sablan sexually assaulted the girl several more times on the drive from San Antonio through New Mexico and Arizona and into California, the affidavit said. Meanwhile, the girl's mother reported her missing to San Antonio authorities on July 7.

In Long Beach, the suspect parked at a laundromat and told the girl to change her clothes, then took her clothes and his inside, creating the opportunity for the girl to write "help me" on a piece of note paper, according to the document.

When Long Beach police officers arrived, Sablan was standing outside the car and they observed the girl mouth the word "help," the agent wrote. □

New report points to homicide rate declines in U.S. cities

**By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homicides are declining in a cross-section of American cities, though their numbers remain higher than before the coronavirus pandemic took hold, according to a new report analyzing data from 30 U.S. cities.

Homicides on average dropped 9.4% during the first half of 2023 as compared to the same period last year, the nonpartisan Council on Criminal Justice found in a report released this week.

The numbers remained about 24% higher than they were in 2019, and motor vehicle thefts were up sharply in the analyzed cities.

"We're seeing a continuing decline in homicides, but most cities are not back to

levels that prevailed prior to the pandemic," said Richard Rosenfeld, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and co-author of the report.

The report is based on crime data posed online by police departments in 37 cities of varying sizes around the country. Several of the nation's largest cities, including New York, Los

Angeles and Chicago, are represented, but researchers didn't have immediate access to data for others, like Houston and San Diego. Of the cities that did post crime data online, 30 included homicide numbers and 20 of those showed declines.

While the analysis doesn't capture the entire country, it's another piece of evidence that U.S. crime rates overall are trending downward after a historic jump during the pandemic, said Jeff Asher, a crime analyst and consultant at AH DataAnalytics who wasn't involved in producing the report. He maintains a crime database of murder rates in about 100 cities and has made similar findings.

"It's been a widespread decline. It's not everywhere,



Tape cords off the scene where multiple people were shot including police officers in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

but it's been widespread enough that it's not simple randomness," he said.

The homicide declines come after an increase in 2020 of 29%, according to FBI data. It was largest one-year jump since the agency's record-keeping began, though still below historic highs of the 1990s.

That increase came during the COVID-19 pandemic, which created huge social disruption and upended support systems. The rise in crime defied easy explanation, though experts pointed to several possible factors, including unprecedented pressures of the pandemic on both citizens and the police, gun violence, social unrest after high-profile incidents of police violence and deep economic turmoil. □

U.N. chief says the world is in a new era marked by the highest major power competition in decades

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the world's nations Thursday that the post-Cold War period is over and the world is moving toward a new multipolar era already marked by the highest level of geopolitical tensions and major power competition in decades.

He warned that these divisions are undermining the cornerstone of the United Nations having all countries work together to solve global challenges.

The U.N. chief ticked off a host of challenges more complex and deadly conflicts, re-emerging concerns about possible nuclear war, growing inequalities within and between countries, widespread terrorism, the climate emergency, mounting distrust in public institutions, and human rights under attack globally "including a pernicious pushback against women's rights."



U.N. secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses the media during a visit to the U.N. office in the capital Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Associated Press

The secretary-general said Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine has made it even more difficult to address these challenges. And without naming Russia he clearly criticized it, saying if every country fulfilled its obligations under the

U.N. Charter which include respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations "the right to peace would be guaranteed." Guterres presented his grim view of the world in a policy paper outlining his "New Agenda for Peace"

to diplomats from the U.N.'s 193 member states. It is the U.N.'s attempt to address the new threats, he said.

The U.N. chief stressed the critical importance of preserving multilateralism, saying: "In our fractured, troubled world, it is incumbent

upon states to preserve our universal institution, in which they have a stake."

"The time to act is not when the divisions and fractures have engulfed us," he said. "The time to act is now."

The original Agenda for Peace was presented by then U.N. secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1992 following the break-up of the Soviet Union and the end of its Cold War with the United States.

It welcomed the end of "hostility and distrust" between the superpowers and outlined how the U.N. could step up its work on preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the International Crisis Group, said this vision "of an activist, interventionist U.N." has been its underlying policy for the past three decades.

But he said Guterres' "New Agenda for Peace" stresses that "the driving force for a new multilateralism must be diplomacy." □

Amsterdam wants ships to moor less, votes to move terminal out of city in latest hit to tourism

By PETER DEJONG

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) —

Amsterdam wants to move a cruise liner terminal out of the heart of the historic capital city as the latest

step in its ongoing battle against pollution and hordes of tourists clogging its narrow, cobbled streets. The Dutch capital is one of the many picturesque European cities from Rome to

Venice to Paris grappling with how to manage visitor numbers that are again soaring in the aftermath of shutdowns during the coronavirus pandemic.

Aldermen at Amsterdam's municipality voted Thursday in favor of a motion calling on the city to move the terminal away from its current location close to the central rail station.

"A clear decision has been made by the council that the cruise (terminal) should leave the city," Ilana Rooderkerk, leader of the centrist D66 party in Amsterdam, told The Associated Press in an email on Friday. "The municipal executive of Amsterdam is now going to work on how to implement it. In any case, as far as we are concerned, large ships no lon-

ger moor in the city center of Amsterdam."

Dick de Graaff, director of Cruise Port Amsterdam that operates the terminal in the city center, told the AP the company had taken note of the vote and is awaiting the municipality's next move.

"There is no immediate closing of the terminal. The council's call is to relocate the terminal and we await a follow up from the alderman on investigations," he wrote in an email response. De Graaff said that the Amsterdam terminal expects 114 ships to stop there this year and 130 next year.

The vote is the latest step in the Dutch capital's long-running campaign to reduce the impact of tourism. Other measures include banning people

from smoking weed in the narrow streets of its red light district and a proposal to move out of the city center many of the windows where scantily-clad prostitutes stand.

Earlier this year, Amsterdam even launched a campaign titled, "Stay Away," against what it described as nuisance tourism.

"Visitors will remain welcome, but not if they misbehave and cause nuisance. In that case we as a city will say: rather not, stay away," Deputy Mayor Sofyan Mbarki said in a statement at the time.

For Rooderkerk, banning cruise ships is about more than just reigning in tourism.

"The polluting cruise does not match the sustainable ambitions of our city," she tweeted after the vote. □



The Italian-built cruise ship MS Azura sails past the EYE film institute as it leaves the port of Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jan. 9, 2013.

Associated Press

Japanese, U.S. and S. Korean officials condemn the North's weapons plans

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Senior officials from Japan, the U.S. and South Korea condemned North Korea over its recent ICBM-class ballistic missile launches and vowed to step up their trilateral cooperation to strengthen deterrence and sanctions against the North, while stressing the need for dialogue with Pyongyang. Their meeting Thursday in the central Japanese city of Karuizawa comes days after North Korea's solid-fuel ICBM launch last week, which landed in the water off the western coast of Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido and one day after the launch of two missiles on Wednesday.

The U.S. special representative for North Korea, Sung Kim, also said that the United States was "working hard" to gather information about an American soldier who fled to the North earlier this month. The U.S. was seeking to ensure his safety and return him home, Kim said.



U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Sung Kim, from left, Japan's Foreign Ministry Director General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Takehiro Funakoshi and South Korea's Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Kim Gunn pose for a photo prior to their talks on North Korean situations, in Karuizawa, northwest of Tokyo, Japan, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Associated Press

Pvt. Travis King, 23, had been held in South Korea on assault charges and was released on July 10 after serving his time. He was taken to the airport Monday but did not board his flight home. Instead, he joined a tourist trip to the

border and bolted to the North Korean side.

Kim said he and his Japanese counterpart, Takehiro Funakoshi, director general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry, and South Korea's Kim Gunn, special

representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, were to also discuss their leaders' summit planned for next month in the United States.

In his opening remarks, Japan's Funakoshi said Tokyo seeks to further strengthen

the three-way security co-operation to enhance deterrence and implement sanctions against the North over its missile advancement in violation to the United Nations' Security Council resolutions. However, he also stressed the need for dialogue with the North. He reiterated that Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was willing to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "without any preconditions" to resolve the decades-old issue of North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals.

Sung Kim said the United States had "no hostile intent" and that "we are willing and ready to sit down at the negotiating table to work through our differences."

South Korea's Kim said the three officials were to affirm their intent for dialogue with North Korea, while discussing ways to strengthen "close communication to bring North Korea back to the path to denuclearization and to encourage China's constructive role." □

Thousands march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to protest Israeli government's judicial overhaul plan

By SAM MCNEIL

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of Israelis joined a march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on Friday in the latest protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vow to push through a controversial overhaul of the judiciary system.

Hundreds of protesters became thousands as Israelis joined the 70-kilometer (roughly 45-mile) march throughout the day in a demonstration against one of Israel's most far-right governments in history.

The demonstrators planned to camp overnight at Shorash, about 18 kilometers (11 miles) from Jerusalem, before making their way to Israel's parliament on Saturday, the Jewish

day of rest.

The march comes a day after Netanyahu vowed to press ahead with the plan, defying demonstra-

tors, growing defections by military reservists and appeals from U.S. President Joe Biden to put the plan on hold.



Israelis march along Highway 1 on their way to Jerusalem near Moshav Shorash in Israel, as part of protests against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to overhaul the judicial system, Friday, July 21, 2023.

Associated Press

Ronen Rosenblatt, 58, a high-tech worker who'd joined the march following months of frustration with Netanyahu's government, described the event as jovial, with people united behind a common objective of "stopping this stupidity, this dictatorship."

Protesters carried Israeli flags and political signs in a line four kilometers (2.5 miles) long that wound through olive orchards and farmland. They'd left seaside Tel Aviv on Thursday, camping overnight roughly halfway to Jerusalem near the Latrun Monastery.

Rising on Friday to shared meals and coffee, the protesters dismantled their tents as others prayed with their arms wrapped in tefillin before they all began

marching again towards Jerusalem and the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Lawmakers are expected to vote Monday on a bill that would curtail the Supreme Court's oversight powers by limiting its ability to strike down decisions it deems "unreasonable." The standard is meant as a safeguard to protect against corruption and improper appointments of unqualified people.

The bill is one of several key-stone pieces of the Netanyahu government's judicial overhaul plan. Netanyahu and his allies a collection of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties say the plan is needed to curb what they consider excessive powers of unelected judges. □

Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas
As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair,

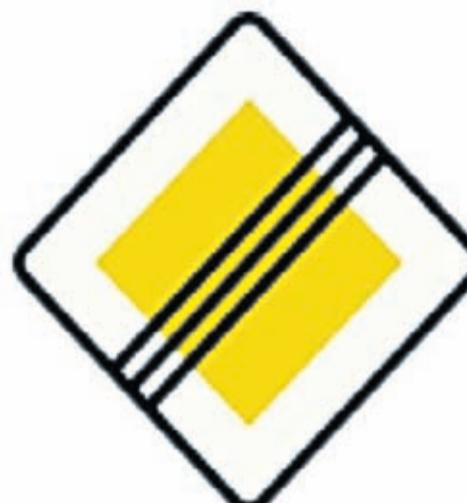
bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a simi-



com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travel-guide.com

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Noord – Sometimes all we need is one place where we can do all our shopping at once. Well, Do it center and Super Do it Center Groceries has it all. This is the largest, local owned Do it Center in the Caribbean and best of all a 100% locally owned family business.

How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong

woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandize, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics

store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandize as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mothers vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

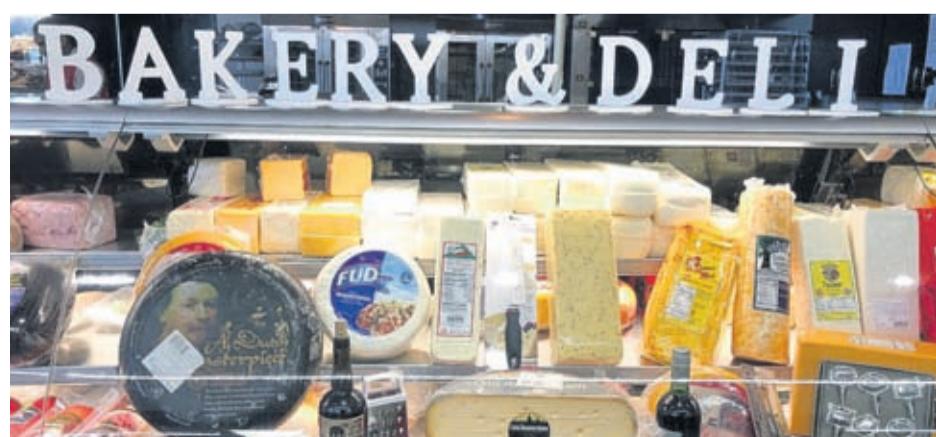
Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

Need a home makeover?

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Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to www.doit.aw.



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees are Dan and Theresa Rosner from New Jersey who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on

behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for its beautiful weather, the wonderful and friendly people and the safety of the island.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority and members of the Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort bestowed the Ambassador certification to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and their home-away-from-home. □



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood

pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet po-

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

tatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger

pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate

skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris □



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more

than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

If you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower



in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat
A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But



since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba,

they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the



beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to

the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □



Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Distress

1 Further down signal

6 Cocoa alternative birds

11 Under-mine 41 Distress

12 Maui greeting 42 Graceful

13 White of TV

14 Works the fields

15 Unbroken

17 Came together

18 Freud topic

19 Involving feeling

22 Bear's lair

23 Jordan neighbor

24 Exercised one's right

25 Brain cases

27 Spot

30 Metal hut

31 Following

32 High times

33 Hunting weapons

35 Following

38 Uniform color

39 Like stuffed animals

40 Belly feature

**Yesterday's answer**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15						16		17		
18					19	20	21			
22					23					
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									29	
30									31	
32					33		34			
35			36	37		38				
39						40				
41						42				

7-22

AXYDIBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

AQ IMJFQA XF KQZJ PJX MAG

VSQ GMCWAGF KQZJ FXOMABM.

QJ GMAXMF KQZJ JXTSU UQ

TJQV. — WOXBM VWODMJ
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BEING DEEPLY LOVED BY SOMEONE GIVES YOU STRENGTH. WHILE LOVING SOMEONE DEEPLY GIVES YOU COURAGE. — LAO TZU

Awash in pink, everyone wants a piece of the 'Barbie' movie marketing maniaBy ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pink sauce on that Burger King burger? What about "Barbie-fying" your pet with sweaters and beds with Barbie motifs? If that's too low-brow, perhaps you'd be interested in hot pink Barbie monogrammed knit leggings by luxury designer Balmain instead, selling at Neiman Marcus for a cool \$2,150.

Welcome to the wonderful and weird world of "Barbie" movie marketing.

Ahead of Friday's U.S. release of the "Barbie" movie, parent company Mattel has created a product marketing blitz with more than 100 brands plastering pink everywhere.

There are pink benches at bus stops and pink clothing displayed in store windows. Microsoft's XBox has come up with a Barbie console series and HGTV is hosting a four-part Barbie Dreamhouse Challenge. Bloomingdale's launched a Barbie Dreamhouse pop-up shop featuring Barbie-themed merchandise at its



Barbie-themed merchandise is displayed in a special section at Bloomingdale's, in New York, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Associated Press

Manhattan flagship store and at its Century City, Los Angeles location.

And then there are all the unofficial collaborators trying to grab a piece of the Barbie craze. Restaurants across the country are offering special pink cocktails, while interior decorators are showing options like vibrant pink backsplashes to "Barbify" your kitchen. Even the organization I Support the Girls a non-profit that has provided 22 million bras and menstrual hygiene products to home-

less people, refugees and immigrants is creating a social media campaign around menstrual periods using Barbie and having volunteers create miniature packages of Barbie-sized menstrual pads and tampons as teaching tools. "The capability to share stories and knowledge through playing with Barbie is what made us realize we need to jump on this pop culture Barbie bandwagon," said Dana Marlowe, founder and executive of I Support the Girls. □

A movie theater chain's plan to charge more for good seats falls flat

AMC 34th Street theater reopens after COVID-19 closures, Friday, March 5, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

Movie theater operator AMC has ditched plans to charge more seats for seats with better sightlines after rival chains did not follow along.

AMC began the pilot program five months ago in three U.S. markets where it said it charged slightly more for better seats, and less for those in the front of the theater and others with inferior views.

AMC said its competitors didn't raise or cut prices on any of their seats based on location. The company said because it wants its pricing to remain competitive, it's ending the pilot program in the coming weeks and there will be no attempt to roll out those changes nationwide. □

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Cupkin children's cups recalled over newlydetected lead levels



This photo provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission shows CUPKIN Double-Walled Stainless Steel Children's Cups.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 345,000 children's cups are being recalled due to lead levels that exceed the federal content ban, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday.

Soojimus is recalling 8-ounce and 12-ounce models of its Cupkin Double-Walled Stainless Steel Children's Cups sold in various colors on Amazon and the Cupkin website from 2018 through earlier this year.

Consumers in possession of the recalled Cupkin cups are urged to stop using them immediately and contact Soojimus for a full

refund. No illnesses or injuries related to the recall have been reported to date.

According to Cupkin, liquid in the now-recalled cups is "not exposed to lead due to the double walled construction." The exposure to lead can occur if the cup bottoms are mistreated, the brand said.

In a response to the recall on its website, Cupkin noted that it initiated the voluntary recall after receiving consumer feedback and conducting additional testing. Lead was not detected during the products' initial development, the brand added.

"When we initially de-

veloped these cups, our manufacturing partner confirmed multiple times that absolutely no lead was used in any part of our production process," Cupkin's message read, adding that the cups were also tested by two separate third-party labs accredited by the CPSC.

"Learning that our manufacturing partner and not one, but two CPSC-accredited labs let us down is a heavy set back both financially and emotionally," Cupkin continued. "However, no matter the cost...we are going to be as transparent and proactive as possible to resolve

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this ASAP." Soojimus and Amazon will be directly contacting all known purchasers of the recalled Cupkin cups, the CPSC said Thursday. To receive a refund, consumers can submit photographs of the cups showing their destruction and fill out a form on Cupkin's website. □



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WK 52 Ocean View \$55,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$10,000
2 Bed Garden view \$8,500
3 Bed Ocean view \$20,500

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean front \$16,500
1 Bed Ocean View \$14,500

GOLD SEASON

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Some top U.S. sports leagues have specific anti-hazing policies, others do not

By DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

The biggest professional sports leagues in the United States have dealt with a smattering of hazing issues over the past decade, ranging from NFL offensive lineman Richie Incognito's bad behavior to Major League Baseball cracking down on rookies dressing up as women.

In response, some of the leagues have crafted dedicated anti-hazing policies, while others haven't.

As Northwestern's football program faces a barrage of hazing allegations, The Associated Press asked all four major U.S. pro leagues about their anti-hazing policies. Baseball appears to have the most extensive anti-hazing and anti-bullying policy, which was first released in 2016. The NBA said hazing was prohibited in its operations manual. The NFL and NHL don't appear to have specific guidelines, instead saying they believe any potential hazing issues are covered in personal conduct or anti-discrimination policies.

While former Northwestern players say hazing was so rampant in the football program it had become normalized, the biggest pro sports leagues in the U.S. have mostly avoided high-profile scandals over the past decade with the notable exception of Incognito. The Miami offensive line-



Dressed like the staff at a Hooters restaurant, rookie members of the San Diego Padres head back to the clubhouse after posing for a photograph in Coors Field as part of rookie hazing after the Padres' 1-0 loss to the Colorado Rockies in Denver on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008.

man was suspended for the final eight games of the 2013 season after teammate Jonathan Martin abruptly quit the team amid accusations he was being bullied. An NFL investigation determined Incognito and two other Dolphins offensive linemen persistently harassed Martin.

MLB

The league issued its anti-hazing policy in 2016, adding it as a supplement and

clarification to the "Workplace Code of Conduct: Harassment & Discrimination" section in the sport's collective bargaining agreement.

The policy says that players may not "engage in a pattern of verbal or physical conduct that is designed to demean, disgrace, or cause mental or physical harm."

It also forbids some initiation rituals, such as "dressing up

Associated Press

as women or wearing costumes that may be offensive to individuals based on their race, sex, nationality, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or other characteristic." Many players criticized the policy when it was created, but it has seemed to effectively end the once-common, cross-dressing rituals.

NBA

The league says its opera-

tions manual strictly prohibits bullying and hazing, which is defined as behavior that "harms, intimidates, offends, degrades, threatens, or humiliates another person or creates a risk to their health or safety."

NFL

In response to an AP request for its anti-hazing policy, league spokesman Brian McCarthy referred to the NFL's Personal Conduct Policy. Those guidelines don't mention hazing specifically, but do expect personnel to "show respect for others inside and outside our workplace."

It also expects players and team personnel to avoid doing things that are "illegal, violent, dangerous, or irresponsible, puts innocent victims at risk, damages the reputation of others in the game, and undercuts public respect and support for the NFL."

NHL

The league said any punishment for hazing would fall under the commissioner's broad powers within the collective bargaining agreement to discipline unacceptable behavior.

"The NHL believes that evaluating every incident on a case-by-case basis is more effective than establishing a matrix that assesses pre-determined penalties for certain acts without any context," NHL spokesman John Dellapina said in an email. □



Stage winner Slovenia's Matej Mohoric cries after the nineteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 173 kilometers (107.5 miles) with start in Moirans-en-Montagne and finish in Poligny, France, Friday, July 21, 2023.

Associated Press

POLIGNY, France (AP) — Matej Mohorič fought tears of relief after edging Kasper

Asgreen to win the Tour de France's closest ever stage finish on Friday.

Matej Mohorič fights tears after winning Tour de France 19th stage

The Slovenian rider broke down after winning, fought tears during the award ceremony for the 19th stage, and again struggled with his emotions as he spoke about his perfectly timed race – the fifth fastest stage in Tour history. Mohorič covered his face and sobbed when confirmation came that he clinched his third ever stage win.

"It means a lot because it's just hard and cruel to be a professional cyclist," Mohorič said. "You suffer a lot in preparation, you sac-

rifice your life, your family. You do everything you can to get ready. And then after a couple of days, you realize that everyone is just so incredibly strong, that it's just hard to follow the wheels sometimes."

Mohorič referred to his Bahrain teammates' hard work, to his own suffering, to rivals' suffering, and to teammate Gino Mäder, who died after crashing into a ravine at the Tour de Suisse last month.

"Sometimes you feel like you don't belong here because

just everyone is so incredibly strong that you struggle to hold wheel sometimes," Mohorič said. "You know that the guy who is pulling is suffering just as much as you do. It's just cruel to then be able to follow the decision to attack when Kasper went."

Australian cyclist Ben O'Connor had been first among the three breakaways to attack for the line but he was overhauled by Asgreen and Mohorič, who seemed to cross at the same time. □

Death of Dale Earnhardt in 2001 Daytona 500 picked as NASCAR's most pivotal moment

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

The 2001 Daytona 500 remains the bleakest day in NASCAR history.

The death of Dale Earnhardt from a crash on the last lap of the race robbed a family of its patriarch and the industry of the greatest stock car star of his era. But beyond the seven championships, The Intimidator persona and fierce rivalries that ushered NASCAR into the mainstream, Earnhardt's enduring legacy may be how his death changed auto racing safety. NASCAR was still reeling from three driver fatalities in 2000 Adam Petty, Kenny Irwin Jr., and Tony Roper -- ahead of a Daytona 500 that seemed intent on setting a new course for the series.

NASCAR had moved at its own pace to impose safety rules at a time when some drivers balked at wearing enhanced technology such as the Head And Neck Safety (HANS) device. There were complaints that it was too cumbersome for a comfortable ride, while others suggested improvements were too simplistic for a sport that was akin to mayhem on the track. The Daytona 500 also marked the first year of NASCAR's six-year, \$2.8 billion television contract with Fox and NBC, a TV deal at the time that symbolized NASCAR's true emergence as a mass-market sports power.



NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt of Mooresville, N.C., gestures to the crowd from after winning the Brickyard 500 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Saturday, Aug. 5, 1995.

Associated Press

The splashy debut instead was forever marred by Earnhardt's death at the age of 49.

It forced NASCAR to finally, emphatically confront its safety issues and force life-saving advancements that reverberated throughout every wreck over the last 22 years. Just look at Ryan Newman, who survived a death-defying crash in the 2020 Daytona 500 in large part because of the collective growth -- from the car to equipment -- of safety. "We lost many lives before him," three-time Daytona 500 champion Denny Hamlin said, "but until it was 'The

Man' himself, it wasn't at the forefront."

As part of the celebration of NASCAR's 75th season, The Associated Press interviewed 12 veteran contributors to the industry on topics ranging from the most memorable race to key challenges ahead. With the death of NASCAR's toughest star from a basilar skull fracture, Earnhardt's crash was picked as the most pivotal moment in NASCAR history.

It was not a unanimous choice: Richard Petty and team owner Eddie Wood noted how in 1971 tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds

branded the elite series in NASCAR the Winston Cup and made racing sponsorship on a car as common as four wheels and a race number. The long-ago meeting at the Streamline Hotel that led to the formation of NASCAR appealed to team owner Rick Hendrick as the most pivotal moment.

And while safety measures over the last two decades grabbed the spotlight, it was NASCAR's waning popularity and the impossible search for the next Earnhardt in the wake of the crash that got it a vote from Deb Williams, an AP

panelist now in her fourth decade of racing coverage. "Thousands of fans lost interest in the sport with Earnhardt's death while others didn't like the changes in racing formats," she said. "They also didn't like the changes the new TV contract brought because they believed the sport's history was cast aside. Motorsports historians often point to Earnhardt's death as the beginning of the sport's decline."

There are but a few instances in any sport where tragedy stands at the forefront of most fans' minds. There are no grainy replays or second-hand stories passed down about the event. The clip is just a click away on any device.

"It changed everything for NASCAR," said veteran driver Lyn St. James.

NASCAR has yet to have another death in the series since Earnhardt was killed. On the 20th anniversary of the 2001 Daytona 500, The Associated Press noted the three biggest safety upgrades over that span:

SAFER Barriers: The Steel And Foam Energy Reduction Barrier was designed to absorb and reduce kinetic energy during high-speed crashes. "Soft walls" have been gradually added to nearly every NASCAR track, first in high-impact areas and later, after Kyle Busch broke both legs in a 2015 crash at Daytona, over nearly every spot of exposed wall. □

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon shatters women's mile record for third world mark



In this Aug. 6, 2021 photo, Faith Kipyegon of Kenya celebrates after winning the 1,500m final at the Tokyo Olympics.

Associated Press

MONACO (AP) — Kenya's Faith Kipyegon broke the women's mile record by nearly five seconds on Friday at the Monaco Diamond League for her third world mark of the past two months.

The 29-year-old finished in 4 minutes, 7.64 seconds to break the record of 4:12.33 set by Dutchwoman Sifan Hassan in 2019, also at Monaco.

Kipyegon broke the world

records in both the 1500m and 5000m last month in Florence and Paris.

"It was a blessing to do this with these ladies," Kipyegon said, according to a release on the event's web site.

"I can see that they are all happy for me and it is so emotional. It is a blessing. It just does not happen every time you run."

I have to say thanks God for this.

"I really enjoyed the race. I came for that, I wanted to chase the world record and thanks god, it was amazing."

Ireland's Ciera Mageean was second in 4:14.8.

"When I started this season, my goal was to just break the 1500 WR. It was still in my head and in my mind," Kipyegon said.

"Thank God I did also the 1 mile and the 5000." □

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